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## President's Notes

John A. Baldwin

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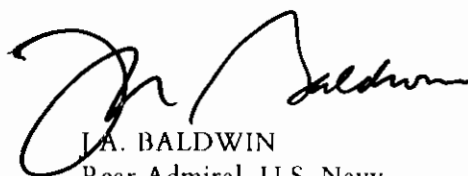
## President's Notes

**T**wo quotes caught my attention in my early weeks at the Naval War College. The first is on the wall of the passageway connecting Spruance and Mahan Halls: "Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that defenses of peace must be constructed." The second is from the CNO's address at this year's Convocation. Admiral Trost said "In naval warfare and in warfare in general, ideas are the ultimate force multiplier. That is where the Naval War College comes in . . . . While I am CNO, there will be no deficit in the balance of ideas here if my support can prevent it."

Those thoughts indicate what the role of the Naval War College should be: an intellectual resource where new ideas are articulated. Not everyone is comfortable with new ideas; good new ideas can lead to change that people and institutions often find distressing. On the other hand, societies that can neither stimulate new ideas nor use them will be left behind to atrophy in strength and purpose. Since 1884 there have been enough good ones originated here in Newport to keep the College at the cutting edge of naval thought.

To have good new ideas, it is well to start with good old ones. That is why a major portion of our curriculum focuses on such preeminent thinkers as Clausewitz, Mahan and Corbett. But the curriculum must also be nourished by contemporary thought. In this issue of our journal you will find a number of articles that provide both key insights into the course of events in the Pacific basin and ideas on how current thinking in the Pacific contributes to the Maritime Strategy. Having just completed two consecutive assignments in that theater, I am particularly pleased to see the *Review* devote attention to this changing and vital area of the world. Those who were fortunate enough to have attended the Current Strategy Forum in June will recognize that many of the articles derive from presentations before that audience.

The *Review* is a vehicle for the diffusion and stimulation of sound ideas related to the strength and effectiveness of the maritime profession of arms in the broadest context. Indeed, that context today is increasingly broad, as the naval profession now must include a comprehensive and integrated understanding of all other military disciplines as well. I encourage others to contribute articles which will better articulate an understanding of maritime problems and solutions. The goal is to keep that equation, of problems and solutions, balanced with good ideas—they are the underpinning of our profession.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J.A. Baldwin', with a stylized, flowing script.

J.A. BALDWIN  
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy  
President, Naval War College